MAY 2 7 2004 Application No. 40/618,42 Response TANTICE Action **4**0/618,423

Customer No. 01933

Attorney Docket No. 03404/LH

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s): J. TAKEDA et al

Serial No. 10/618,423

July 11, 2003 Filed

For CONNECTOR

Art Unit 2833

Examiner Truc T. Nguyen

AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

SIR:

In the event that this Paper is late filed, and the necessary petition for extension of time is not filed concurrently herewith, please consider this as a Petition

for the requisite extension of time, and to the extent not tendered by check attached hereto, authorization to charge the extension fee. or any other fee required in connection with this Paper, to Account No. 06-1378.

This is responsive to the Office Action mailed February 23, 2004, the term for response to which expires on May 23, 2004 (Sunday), which is automatically extended to Monday, May 24, 2004.

Amendments to the Claims are set forth in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper. Claims 1-16 are amended.

Remarks begin on page 6 of this paper.

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as First Class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on the date noted below.

Sanades.

Dated: